	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	09/436,135	VAN GUNTER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Kyung H. Shin	2143

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *10/17/05 & interviewed on 1/5/06*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-5,7-12,14 and 15*.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None of the:

        1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

        1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

    Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date *1/5/06* .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____.

KHS 1/5/06

DAVID WILEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Claims **1, 5, 7-12, 14-15** are pending. Claims 6, 13 are canceled. Independent

Claims are **1, 8**.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

   Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with Dave Devine, Reg. No. 51,275, (509) 324-9256 ext. 233 on 1/5/2006.

3.   The application has been amended as follows:

In Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended), A computer-readable medium having computer-

executable instructions for operating a policy agent of a network for performing steps

comprising:

   detecting a network connection from a client computer on the network;

composing a challenge for authenticating a user of the client computer

associated with said network connection, the challenge being encrypted with a

private key of the policy agent;

transmitting the challenge to the client computer;

receiving a response from the client computer;

decrypting the response using a public key of the user to obtain a first

message digest value;

receiving network data in a form of packets, through the network

connection with the client computer;

calculating a second message digest value based on the challenge and a

pre-selected number of packets of the received network data;

comparing the first and second message digest values to determine

whether a match is found;

if a match is found, then forwarding the network data to their specified

recipient, else not forwarding the network data to their specified recipient.

Claims 6 (Canceled)

Claim 8 (Currently Amended), A method of authenticating a user using a client

computer on a network to transmit network data through a policy agent of the network,

comprising the steps of:

detecting by the policy agent a network connection from the client computer for transmitting network data of the user;

receiving by the policy agent network data in a form of packets, transmitted through the network connection from the client computer;

obtaining, by the policy agent, an identity of the user and a public key of the user;

composing, by the policy agent, a challenge encrypted with a private key of the policy agent;

sending the challenge to the client computer;

decrypting, by the client computer, the challenge;

generating, by the client computer, a first message digest value based on the challenge and a pre-selected number of packets of the network data of the user;

encrypting, by the client computer, the first message digest value with a private key of the user to create a response;

sending the response to the policy agent;

decrypting, by the policy agent, the response to obtain the first message digest value;

calculating a second message digest value based on the challenge and the network data received through network connections from the client computer;

comparing the first and second message digest values to determine whether there is a match there between, and

if a match is found, then forwarding, by the policy agent, the network data

to their specified recipient, else not forwarding the network data to their specified

recipient.

Claims 13 (Canceled)

Allowable Subject Matter

4.   The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

The Jain (6,311,218) prior art discloses *"the usage of an authentication system utilizing*

a shared secret in conjunction with encryption and decryption techniques".

The Hardjono (6,725,276) prior discloses *"the generation of a message*

digest parameter which is utilized within an authentication scheme".

The Wesinger (6,052,788) prior art discloses *"the utilization of firewall*

techniques that enable network data packet filtering capabilities".

The Goldman (5,684,951) prior art discloses *"the generation of a message*

digest value containing a time stamp parameter".

The Jain (6,311,218) and Hardjono (US 6,223,224) prior art combination

discloses: *" ... the capability to utilize network data packets, to utilize a challenge and*

response mechanism, and the capability to generate a message digest (i.e. a hash)

value ... ".

Neither the Jain, Hardjono, Wesinger, nor Goldman prior art discloses the

capability to generate a message digest (i.e. a hash) value specifically consisting of a

set of network data packets and a challenge response parameter.   In addition, the

message digest value is utilized in a comparison procedure within a user authentication

procedure in order to associate a particular user with a particular communications path

in combination with all the elements of each independent claim as argued by the

Applicant.

After extensive searching and analysis of prior art in light of the Applicant's

claimed invention, the Examiner finds that the referenced prior art does not teach or

suggest in detail the invention's disclosure in combination with all the elements of each

independent claim as argued by the Applicant [see Page 7, Lines 14-16 and Page 8,

Lines 11-12 of Applicant's arguments dated October 17, 2005].

Applicant argues that the generation of a message digest utilizing network data

packets and a challenge response within an authentication process is a unique and a

novel feature.   So as indicated by the above statements, Applicant's arguments have

been considered persuasive, in light of the claim limitations as well as the enabling

portions of the specification.

5.   The dependent claims further limit the independent claims and are considered

allowable on the same basis as the independent claims as well as for the further

limitations set forth.   Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays,

should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly

labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Kyung H. Shin whose telephone number is (571) 272-

3920. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 am - 7 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, David A. Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

K H S
Kyung H Shin
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2143

KHS
Jan. 5, 2006

DAVID WILEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER